



**SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2012
6 P.M.**

Special Meeting	The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 6 p.m.
Present	Deputy Mayor Robert Santangelo, Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Hope Kasper, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Philip J. Pessina, Todd G. Berch, and Deborah Kleckowski; Sergeant-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna, and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.
Absent	Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Council Members Gerald E. Daley, Joseph E. Bibisi, and Linda Salafia; Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan.
Also Present	Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Personnel Director Debra Milardo, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, Acting City Attorney Timothy Lynch, Chief of Police William McKenna, Park Supervisor John Milardo and Recreation, Park and Recreation Director Raymond Santostefano, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, Energy Coordinator John Hall, Chief Sanitarian and Office Manager Salvatore Nesci, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 4 members of the public.
Meeting Called to Order	The Acting Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and leads the public in the pledge of Allegiance.
Call of Meeting Read	The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Deputy Mayor declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.
Workshop Opens	<p>The Acting Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:11 p.m.</p> <p>Councilwoman Kleckowski asks for Bill Oliver. He comes forward. She asks why it costs \$20,800 to have access to the Granicus program and why can't we put things on the web now.</p> <p>Mr. Oliver states he can get a list of itemized costs. It is a hosted environment and will host and maintain all supporting materials for agendas forever. We don't have to acquire storage and it is a software service tool and we pay for the pieces of Granicus as we want and we can upload as many events as we want and make the images available on the internet. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks if this is on the City website. Mr. Oliver responds we would access from the City website and it is a linked frame and streams from one of their services. Councilwoman Kleckowski states we have a whole IT Department and City web site and passed a job change to do that for minutes; why pay \$20,000 for this and in addition to this, it is annual. Mr. Oliver replies there is a potential to increase, but they maintain a flat structure of pricing and it is based on the population of the municipality and Granicus only deals with government bodies and the reason we shouldn't do it in-house is it is a particular expertise. We would have to build redundant servers and have to encode the video file and archive them. We are taking advantage of that service on a scale. Councilwoman Kleckowski states we were supposed to have an IT Commission and do you know the status and there has been concern about IT initiatives and yet we have a committee. Mr. Oliver responds he doesn't know the status and this is not necessarily an IT service; we are trying to get broadcast events available to the public. They are facilitators to this project. It will allow for people at home to submit and record for their own webcam and sent to the Council and could play it back and it is a later addition to the service. If it is broadcast during the meeting, it may not improve it, but it allows for easy distribution for easy access for any agenda items. If there was a printed copy, it could be stored with the file and if you click on that agenda item, they can see the supporting material and have copies they would want. Any items would be available on the website. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks if it can be streamed live. Mr. Oliver responds yes; you can watch it live and once it is uploaded you can review it.</p>
Noted for the Record	Councilman Faulkner takes his seat at 6:17 p.m.

Councilman Berch is recognized and states not for this director. Councilman Klattenberg states he has questions. He states when we talked about this at Finance and Government Operations and there is an expense, and would we be saving paper. This would in effect eliminate paper. Mr. Oliver responds yes; it means a change in the ordinance. It eliminates the requests of reproducing the packets and making copies of the dvds and it is available forever. They can watch the video clip and retrieve any items related to the item. Councilman Klattenberg states if it is \$10,000 on paper, it is inaccurate to say the cost is \$20,000. Mr. Oliver responds it is labor costs as well and that would be around \$19,000.

Councilman Berch asks for Fire Chief Ouellette who comes forward. Councilman Berch asks with regard to the resolution of the dive truck; can you tell us what it will be used for. Do you currently have a dive truck? The Chief responds no; it is on the rescue truck and it is overloaded with equipment. We are trying to get a separate truck so it can be self-sufficient. Councilman Berch states this is a part time vehicle for the dive team. Chief Ouellette states yes. Councilman Berch says he just wanted clarification; he supports this.

Councilman Serra asks for the Parking Director, Geen Thazhampallath, and asks him to make people aware of the bond ordinances for the improvement of the lots. Mr. Thazhampallath responds there are two bond requests: one is for public improvements and construction for the KidCity lot and Russell Library lot to make access from Main Street. There is money for the Kings Avenue lot and we are planning on having up to 65 spaces there. He is anticipating that construction. The other bond is for safety for the other nine lots; only Melilli has the infrastructure in place. It will be monitored by the Police Department and ourselves. Councilwoman Kleckowski states people have asked me that there are way too many cameras and can you speak to safety versus cameras. Can you tell us what you will be doing and the purpose of the cameras? Mr. Thazhampallath states it is a balancing act and there are arguments on both sides; we don't intend to use it in an invasive way, but to monitor the lots for problems. We have had property damage and have used them to avert damage or see who did it. We want people to feel secure; well-lit secure parking areas is critical to the vibrancy of downtown and we are using technology to do that. We intend to use the cameras for viewing the entrance and exit points and the lots themselves.

Acting Chair Santangelo asks if there are additional questions and recognizes Councilman Pessina. Councilman Pessina states isn't it an industry standard when they build parking lots, this is what they need for security. Mr. Thazhampallath states that is accurate and we are behind on the nine lots. We have only one that is adequately covered. Councilman Pessina states aren't there ancillary services. Mr. Thazhampallath responds there is an option for the police or dispatch to see what is happening when there is an emergency. If you can get to the blue light a camera can see what is unfolding; for example if someone was having a heart attack. Councilman Pessina states this is needed and you are bringing us to the forefront.

Councilman Santangelo asks if there are further questions for this director; seeing none, he recognizes Councilman Klattenberg who calls for John Hall. He asks Mr. Hall to explain what is being proposed this evening regarding the change in light technology and the parking lot and what it represents. Mr. Hall responds they were looking at sidewalks and the Melilli Parking lot and they looked into energy efficient lighting to save money and energy and it became obvious the amount of lighting is important to downtown and we wanted to make sure the new lighting was more energy efficient but provided as much lighting or more lighting. We put a test light in Melilli and looking at it with the eye, it is brighter and bluer and gives better visibility and we will save \$7,000 in electricity and have a little more light and better light and they last a very long time, over ten years before they burn out. It is a positive project. Councilman Klattenberg states he spoke to Geen and he assured me he is in touch with you and there are many new lighting projects and this technology should get consideration. Mr. Hall states there is a lot of lighting and the biggest is the street light; we pay a huge amount for maintenance of the street lights and we spend over \$800,000 on street lighting. Councilman Berch asks you mentioned the bulbs last 100,000 hours and the current ones last how long. Mr. Hall responds 15,000 hours. Councilman Berch asks the replacement cost; Mr. Hall responds he thinks it is in the area of \$30. Councilman Berch states you are getting 10x more lighting for the cost and the current lighting degrades. Mr. Hall replies yes, metal halide declines and they would dim over the years and induction lighting holds up more over time.

Noted for the Record

Councilwoman Bartolotta takes her seat at 6:32 p.m.

Councilman Serra asks for Director of Water and Sewer, Guy Russo regarding agenda item 12-18 fronting some money; can you make us aware of the timeframe. Already we have \$13 million and \$37 is on the ballot and it is a

timing situation. Can you explain this? Councilman Serra states it is important to vote yes on this. Mr. Russo states last year we had the opportunity to go out for the entire project, but went out for the buy-in and by the time we were done looking at the entire cost because of DEEP requirements, the cost rose and this bond issue was put on for November ballot because of the magnitude of the bond and the issue. We are coming into November for this work and there was a timing problem getting it ready for a spring bid. This was a previous discussion; we applied for \$2.5 million and it was rejected from the State Bond Commission and the answer was we are getting Clean Water funds and the Urban Act was going to be used for another project. Even if the referendum is successful, it will take a week to file the information with Secretary of the State and send the paper to DEEP. When DEEP gets it, it is six weeks to get the document to the Attorney General's Office and with all the work, we would see money in early March and we would not get the bid out by June 30 and the money would go back as unallocated funds and go to the next project. If we take advantage of the money allocated to us, we need to get the project bid by June 30 and in order to do that we have to do a survey and technical borings and design work on the piece we can get completed is the pipeline piece then the pump station. It is to start the geotechnical work and design work so we can get DEEP assurance by early March to go out to bid. Councilman Serra states if this doesn't happen and we advance you the money and it doesn't pass, how much would you be spending. Mr. Russo replies he discussed this with the engineers and by letter agreement for an emergency purchase order agreement, the work has to begin this week and we are still two weeks out and to the time of the referendum, it will be \$250,000 and if referendum isn't passed, we will stop the project. Councilman Serra states we will spend \$250,000 to meet the dead line and you are asking for \$250,000. Mr. Russo states it is \$250,000 and we won't see the Clean Energy funds until March so we will need a loan. He wants to apologize to the Council and he has not been up against timing and funding like this project and we cannot imperil the availability for the \$25 million for this project. Councilman Serra asks for the Finance Director. Mr. Russo volunteers this did pass WPCA successfully and they authorized financing the fund. Mr. Erlacher asks if they can do this in a proper fashion. Mr. Erlacher responds yes; they can issue short term notes at the end of November and roll them into permanent bonds in late spring. Councilman Klattenberg asks how much is being provided from the Clean Water fund. Mr. Russo states 20% is a grant and 80% is 20 years at 2% money. Councilman Klattenberg states we are seeking \$37 million and funds have been allocated for buying into the project. What is the total cost? Mr. Russo replies \$37 million for infrastructure and \$13 mill for the buy in. if we were to go out and do a treatment plant, a smaller community than ours has done so with an otherwise same type of collection system, the costs were over \$100 million for their own plant. He understands \$50 million is a lot but in excess of \$100 million is a lot worse. Councilman Klattenberg states the \$37 million, what is represented by Clean Water funds. Mr. Russo replies 20% is a grant and 80% is 2% for 20 years. Councilman Serra asks how that works. Mr. Erlacher responds we would use the 2% notes unless we can bond cheaper. Mr. Russo comments the 2% is like a mortgage and is of equal payments. Mr. Russo continues Guy if we were to avoid any kind of rate shock, having a flat debt service is better than paying interest up front. Councilman Serra states the end of it is \$250,000 to the referendum. Mr. Russo states we will be doing something to get the subs going this week.

Noted for the Record

Councilwoman Kasper takes her seat at 6:43 p.m.

Councilman Pessina asks Mr. Russo as the project progresses, will the Council be briefed. Mr. Russo responds yes.

Noted for the Record

Corporation Counsel Ryan takes his seat at 6:44 p.m.

Councilman Faulkner asks to address questions to Finance Director Erlacher. He states we have a couple more bond ordinances coming up and have we talked about what the annual budget impact will be with all these bonds. Mr. Erlacher responds he spoke to some members of the Finance and Government Operations Committee and next year we will have \$1 million coming off and anything this year is interest only and he sees a small decrease in debt service with the caveat that the Board of Education is looking to do some projects. Councilman Faulkner states we don't see the Board projects. Mr. Erlacher responds it depends on how it is allocated and the tennis courts are City-owned and the City would bear the costs of that. Councilman Faulkner states we have a couple of bid waivers and refresh me who is on the committee. Mr. Erlacher responds it is a floating director, mayor's rep and my rep and I use the Supervisor of Purchasing. The bid waiver is for signs and to keep them uniform. Councilman Faulkner asks how they got this company. Mr. Erlacher responds the Parking Director could respond better. He states the director used this company for a sign or two and they decided to use the company to keep the signs uniform. Mr. Thazhampallath states the vendor in question was

already being utilized for various lots when he arrived last November, and we started to roll them out for all the lots and this has been a ten year program that we have tried to accomplish to have common signage to know where public parking is and way finding signs. The vendor was in place and I am coming to you because we have come so far we need a common look and feel. Councilman Faulkner states that is the problem; we always come too far. The \$25,000 will end that relationship. Mr. Thazhampallath responds yes. Councilman Faulkner states in terms of the Motorola Communications. Mr. Thazhampallath responds that is Central Communications handling it for all departments. Mr. Erlacher comes forward and Councilman Faulkner states to Mr. Erlacher that from a financial perspective, it is new news that you are not on the committee. Mr. Erlacher responds it is the Supervisor of Purchasing who is on the Committee. Councilman Faulkner asks why we are doing this from a committee perspective. Mr. Erlacher states the committee voted unanimously. The FCC has required a change of the frequency band. The Police had some money in their operating budget and Central Dispatch had some money in their CNR, and we will fund through LoCIP. He states the director makes his sale pitch and the committee looks at the alternatives.

Councilwoman Kleckowski asks for the Fire Chief and or the Director of Personnel. She states this is on agenda item 12-3; can you explain why this resolution is coming forward and what ramifications may occur if it is not passed. Ms Milardo states it is a resolution on prohibitive practice filed against the City dealing with payment for training on specialized apparatus and they had an informal meeting with the Labor Board and this will only be enacted only if a specialized piece of equipment comes forward and would be paid for training. If a normal piece comes forward, compensatory time will be paid. It is a remedy to a prohibitive practice and the hearing officer recommended to the City, it is in our best interest to come to a mediation point with the Union. You have that before you. Acting Chair Santangelo asks the urgency; if we need more information and we postpone to date certain would that be good. Ms Milardo responds if you do it to date certain October 11 you would be in the time frame.

Councilwoman Kasper states we talked about this and there was a request by me and the committee to determine a financial impact and asks if that was done. Fire Chief Ouellette asks for past or future. Councilwoman Kasper states this one. Chief Ouellette responds \$7,200. The total was \$7,200 for the entire training. Councilwoman Kasper states going forward with this and overtime. . . Ms Milardo states it is unusual to be discussing open labor case in public session; \$7,200 was paid to existing members of the Department and the City did not prevail before the State Board and we were told to mediate. We were looking at over \$17,000 owed and it would come from the Fire Department budget and we feel the language in the MOU is a small opening for future overtime to occur and the contract will be negotiated in 2014. It would become part of mandatory bargaining. Councilman Serra states we will postpone this because I have some questions and agree it shouldn't be in public session and the hearing was informal so we do have some time and we will rectify the issue.

Acting Chair Santangelo alerts everyone it is 6:58 p.m. and if the Council is not finished with questions, we will recess and begin the next meeting.

Meeting Recesses

Councilwoman Kasper moves to recess and is seconded by Councilman Serra; the Acting Chair calls for the vote and it is unanimous with nine aye votes. The Acting Chair declares the recess at 6:59 p.m.

Meeting Reconvenes

The Acting Chair calls the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Councilman Serra asks to address questions to the Director of Central Communications, Wayne Bartolotta, who comes forward. He asks that he explain agenda item 12-16 and 12-17, the mandated radio and bid waiver. Mr. Bartolotta responds the City had a bid in place for equipment and accessories and they went out to bid in the past and solicited vendors and they received them from out-of-state vendors and we had to reship some of those back to Texas. Our primary communications vendor gave us an option to sell at retail cost, Motorola products. We will need to purchase 60 radios and the savings with the pricing structure is between \$9,000 and \$10,000 alone. The State bid showed a savings of 15% - 22% off list cost price and this bid waiver would give us 38 - 40% off and we are taking the whole Motorola catalog for communications and equipment available to all directors in the City. To answer Councilman Faulkner, the committee is not the easiest committee to deal with. They ask a lot of questions and you have to show a lot of documentation. The second resolution for the \$150,000, the FCC mandated a particular spacing for frequencies to create more frequencies. There are not enough available in town and they said by January 1, all radios have to meet the requirements. We are talking nationwide. It is a common problem. What they require to do is change the spacing and some are older radios and they will not handle the spacing requirements. Some of the newer ones need to be reprogrammed as

well as the infrastructure. It all needs to be reprogrammed. We put together a package that would be all inclusive and meet the requirement before January 1, which is subject to fines and penalties. It is important to show the FCC we are making strides on this.

Councilman Serra states this is an unfunded mandate. Mr. Bartolotta responds yes. Councilman Serra states we have to fund this. Mr. Bartolotta responds yes. Councilman Serra states you had this budgeted as well as Police. Mr. Bartolotta responds CNR, yes. Councilman Serra states you have to look at the next priority for CNR. The monies we had ,we would come back to the Council and we will say what we will do for this. Councilman Serra states we need to thank Tina Gomes for looking into this and finding it is covered by LoCIP.

Acting Chair Santangelo states he would like the Chief of Staff on this. He states the question asked in our caucus was could there be homeland security dollars for this and I asked you to look into this. Mr. Samolis responds they had Tina Gomes look into this and they contacted Homeland Security and the funds have been budgeted for and there are no funds there and they contacted Emergency Management; they could replace two radios and they are already in compliance so there is no need to. Councilman Faulkner states how long is the agreement with the company that you will be buying from. Mr. Bartolotta responds that will be subject to a contract and in the past it has been a 3 to 5 year agreement. We are currently working on agreements with them from 2006 and they are honoring those prices.

Meeting Adjourns

The Acting Chair, seeing no further questions from Council to Directors asks for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Serra so moves and is seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. The vote is unanimous to approve and the Acting Chair adjourns the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD
Common Council Clerk